

The Villager

The community magazine for the parishes of Martley and Wichenford

Volume 13 No. 12

May 2004

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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of The Villager. The Villager cannot be held responsible for any goods or services advertised in the magazine

Diary

Regular events:

Teme Valley Shufflers Line Dancing

Weds 7pm Martley Memorial Hall.

Enquiries: Jeff and Thelma 01886 821772

Citizens Advice Bureau Teme Valley

Telephone Service: Mon & Tue 10am—3pm
Thu 10am—7.30pm

Great Witley & Knightwick Surgeries: Weds
10am -4pm - by appt. 01584 810860

Short mat Bowling Tuesdays 2.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Weight Watchers Tue 6.30pm

Martley Memorial Hall

Enquiries Tracey Hopkins 07710 493617

See Church Words for details of services

Mon 3 **May Day Holiday**

Sat 8 **Barn Dance in aid of St Richards Hospice** 7.30pm
Hallow Village Hall

Sun 9 **Teme Valley Farmers Market for local produce** 11am The Talbot, Knightwick
Martley Ramblers to Shrawley
Meet 2pm Church car park

Mon 10 **Kenswick and Wichenford Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** 7.45pm Wichenford Memorial Hall
Martley Parish Council Meeting
8pm Memorial Hall

Wed 12 **Martley WI: Annual Resolutions Meeting** 7.30pm
Martley Memorial Hall

Thu 20 **Ascension Day**
Wichenford Wine Club Wine Tasting and What to Look For
with Worcester Wine Company
8pm Wichenford Memorial Hall

Sun 23 **Open Garden at 1 Prickley Bungalows, Hockhams Lane** 2-6pm in aid of The national Gardens Scheme

Sat 29 **Martley & District Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale with car boot sale**
2pm Martley Memorial Hall
Little Witley Flower Festival
(until 31 May)

Mon 31 **Spring Bank Holiday**

Articles to go in The Villager must be with the Editor by the 1st of the previous month

OUT AND ABOUT I N MARTLEY

Visit our website—www.martley.org.uk



Martley Parish Council

In order to get the Parish Council reports to you earlier, the reports of two meetings appear this month. Next month the report of the May meeting will be printed (all being well!)

March Meeting

An ordinary meeting was held on Monday 1 March 2004 at the Memorial Hall. Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman. The Chairman announced that Councillor B. Draper had written to him to resign. The Parish Council accepted the resignation.

Hope House Lane Speeding Issues

It was decided to defer this matter to a future meeting.

Collins Green and Hipplecote Speeding Issues

The Chairman decided that as a full discussion had been under taken during the Democratic Time, this item had been covered. However it will also be a future agenda item.

Parish Link Bus Service

It was resolved that this Parish Council would become the Lead Council in the group as requested by Hallow Parish Council and agreed to be the recipient of the grant.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor A. Davies reported that the paper on regional government had been discussed and thrown out. The County Council fully supports Parish Link buses. The Council Tax rise will be limited to about 5% in this County. The County Council would like to see boundaries aligned with Districts and Wards kept as designated by the Districts.

District Councillor's Report

District Councillor B. Williams reported on youth support with a District-wide Youth Forum and links with School Councils, regional government and a review of the Planning Department.

Parish Footpath Officer's Report

Mr. Nicklin had sent in his apologies so no report was given. The Chairman reported that the title of Parish Footpath Officer will change to "Parish Paths Warden".

Planning

The Chairman reported that over 50 parishioners had attended the viewing of the Draft MHDC Local Plan. It had been resolved at the single issue meeting held on Monday 23 February

2004 that this Parish Council fully supported the proposals in the Draft Plan. 04/00019/CLE Mardon Worcester Road: essentially no objection. 04/00117/FUL Old House, Horsham: some concern about the height and materials proposed, essentially in favour. 04/00194/FUL Heaton House: Amendment to 02/00575/FUL to relocate two bungalows 0.5m to the south. No objections. Development in Martley: The Chairman stated that a meeting had been held with Mr. D. Hallmark and Mr. R. Alexander representing Marsten Developments and referring to proposed development to the rear of The Crown Public House. The Council had received the information and would take full consultation with parishioners before forming a view. An article will be prepared for The Villager and publicity material produced to prepare for an open meeting in the near future. It was agreed to form a sub-committee of five persons, three Parish Councillors, Mr G. Coomby-Jones, Mr. M. Nott and Mr. N. Stammers and two Parishioners. The Clerk will write to the volunteers at this meeting with a formal request to join the sub-committee. Unauthorised Hoarding Heaton House: The Clerk read out a letter from MHDC Enforcement Officer. A planning application must be prepared by the developer. In addition, the timing of the exterior lighting will be revised. To Appeal: APP/J1860/A/04/1139381 site at

Laugherne Villa. Approved/Rejected/Withdrawn: 03/01668/FUL

Quarry Farm, Quarry Lane – granted. 03/01984/FUL Maranatha, Witton Hill – granted.

Finance

There were six cheques totalling £801.59 for agreement and signature:

Correspondence

Included: WCC - Parish Lengthman Scheme funding agreed; WCC Worcestershire bus and information strategy; MHDC Homelessness Service leaflets; MHDC Draft District Local Plan Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey; West Mercia Police Authority - Stop & Search letter and poster.

Councillors Reports and Future Agenda Items

Councillor G. Taylor reported the bottle bank full; the Clerk will report. The liaison meeting between this council and Martley Sports Hall seems to have faded out; the Clerk to write to the Manager. Councillor D. Goodyear reported children crossing Barbers Lane from the Chantry to the playing fields in an unsafe manner with no regard to safety; the Clerk will write to the Head Teacher. The Chairman reminded the Council that Mr. Draper's resignation will result in an election if ten or more persons request it. The Clerk to arrange notification with the Returning Officer at MHDC. Also there is now a vacancy on Worcestershire CALC. The Chairman has been invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of

his work with CALC. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be set at the next meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 5 April 2004 8.00 pm.

April Meeting

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Martley Parish Council held on Monday 5 April 2004 at the Memorial Hall. Mr. D. Cropp, Chairman.

The Democratic Period/Public Question Time

Mr. M. Poole had not seen the Malvern Hills Draft Local Plan and asked if the development proposed behind The Crown would adversely affect the sewage system in the village. The Chairman explained that no planning application had yet been made although a developer had submitted some proposals for discussion. He further explained that it is proposed to send a survey to each household in the parish to determine the wishes of the electorate before the Parish Council formulates its opinion. Mr. Poole then asked if any provision was being made to overcome the shortage of burial space in the churchyard. The Chairman declared that this would appear on the agenda for the next council meeting. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Alan Saunders, Rural Housing Enabler. Mr. Saunders circulated a plan showing a proposed layout for 14 low-cost houses to be built in the vicinity of Hasting Close. He explained that funding had been granted for just over £1M and negotiations are underway with the landowner. He suggested that

the council form a working group to study the proposals and comment via the council to Malvern Hills District Council. The chairman said once again there is a need to canvass the electors opinions. There were no other issues.

Hope House Lane and Collins Green Speeding Issues

The chairman had met with Mr. N. Bruen and a site meeting is to be arranged at Collins Green. County Councillor A. Davies is to be sent a full set of correspondence. Hope House Lane to be referred to a later meeting.

Parish Link Bus Service

A letter from Hallow Parish Council confirmed that it had agreed to relinquish its position as lead council to Martley Parish Council. The Chairman submitted an income and expenditure account for Laugherne Valley Travel complete with the passenger figures. The Chairman said that the service was now organised to be a "Hail and Ride" service and that special trips could be arranged such as to the theatre at Malvern. The Chairman has been invited to the Worcestershire County Council transport audit meeting; Price Waterhouse is the auditor. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the effect of becoming the lead council would increase the turnover substantially. This in turn will impact on amounts paid for subscriptions of various bodies. This was accepted as the funding made provision for increased costs.

Independent Internal Auditor

It was resolved that Iain Selkirk FCA would be appointed the internal auditor and the fee of £75.00 be accepted.

Vacancy for Councillor

The Clerk announced that the necessary notices had been posted and nomination papers are held. The election will be held on Thursday 13 May 2004. Representative for the Old Grammar School Foundation - this to be left until the June meeting. Environment Officer: Mr. B. Draper will be asked to remain.

Annual Parish Meeting

The date was set to be Saturday 15 May at 3p.m. at the Memorial Hall. The Hall would be available from 11am - 4pm and all organisations within the village would be invited to be present during those times with a display; refreshments would be provided by this Council.

Development Sub-Committee

The Clerk suggested that the name be changed to Working Party as it was not a true committee of this council. Councillor Coombey-Jones reported on the progress. The survey mentioned in the Democratic Period would be sent out with The Villager and the envelopes returned to the Clerk. The results would help to form this Council's opinion and be passed on to Malvern Hills District Council for information.

District Councillor's Report

District Councillor B. Williams had already sent her apologies so no report

was given. However the Clerk reported that District Councillor

Williams had asked him to mention two items: 1. Has any provision been made in the proposals for The Crown for local people in working clothes to use the bar. 2. The work by the Lengthman around the notice board and the weighbridge has made the area look very nice.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor. A. Davies. Had sent his apologies so no report was given.

Parish Paths Warden Report

Mr. Nicklin had sent in his apologies and a report which the Clerk read out. It was noted that Shanks Waste Management will be making a contribution towards the cost of repairing the steps near the quarry.

Planning

04/00282/FUL High Meadow Hipplecote This Council objected on four grounds. 04/00323/FUL The Crown Inn. Following an objection, the car park has been revised to leave "Crown Meadow" substantially untouched. The Chairman read out a letter sent to Evertons. 04/00405/FUL Ankers Hipplecote (this is in addition to 04/00282 High Meadow; same property). No objection. 04/00456/FUL and 04/00475/LBC There may be a contravention of policy ref. the dilapidated condition of one of the barns. 04/00432/FUL Hilltop Farm



Horsham no objection.

Approved/Rejected/With drawn:
04/00194/FUL Heaton House Granted.
4/00117/FUL Old House Farm
Granted. Annual Public
Entertainments License, The Admiral
Rodney Malvern Hills District Local
Plan-First Deposit Jan 2004. Letter
from MHDC acknowledging this
Council's representations.

Finance

There were eight cheques totalling
£1,180.01 for agreement and
signature:

Correspondence

19 items of correspondence were dealt
with and included a pamphlet
"Valuing Age & Experience in the
West Midlands" meeting Mon. 10
May; DTI DEFRA Broadband; WCC
"A joint Municipal Waste Strategy for
Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Public Consultation" plus CD (67
pages plus questionnaire).

Councillors Reports and Future

Agenda Items

Councillor G. Taylor reported that
Amanda Smith is the new contact for
Sport Martley. The gym is to be
refurbished. Councillor D. Goodyear
reported two caravans in a field
Hollins Lane. A pothole on Hillside
near the junction on Horn Lane; the
Lengthman is aware and has reported.
Some reports say that the notice in
Barbers Lane is not large enough.
Councillor M. Nott reported
overhanging branches at "Firs"
Ankerdine. Councillor J. Slough
reported a pothole in Berrow Green

road; the Lengthman has reported this.
Councillor N. Stammers reported that
the treasurer of the Memorial Hall is
concerned about the costs of the
library. The Chairman confirmed that
the energy costs and. telephone will be
met by this Council. The Chairman
reported that three trees had been
removed from St. Peters Drive, but no
notification had been received by this
Council. The willow tree problem in
St. Peters Drive near Badgers Close to
be on the agenda. for next month
The next meeting is on Monday 10
May 2004 at 8 p.m. which will also be
the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Tom Pearsall

Clerk to the Parish Council

Oil Syndicate

Please note that we have a change in
the organisation. Tom Pearsall has
recently discovered that retirement
isn't all it's cracked up to be! He finds
himself with more work and
commitments than when he had a
proper job so has asked me to take
over the running of the syndicate. I
don't envisage any sweeping changes
but would like to utilise the Internet
more so that costs can be minimised.
If you haven't got round to paying
your £2 annual subscription yet
perhaps you would like to drop it
round to my home as soon as
convenient. New members are always
welcome and if you would like more
information, please contact me to talk
it over. Remember – the more

members we have, the better the price!
Many thanks to Tom for all his hard
work over the last few years.
Orders in to me by the 10th of the
month in whatever form suits you –
'phone, e-mail, letter or carrier pigeon.

Alan Colburn

"The Willows" Jury Lane, Martley

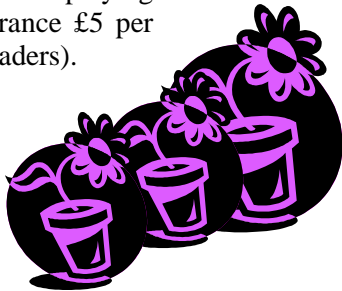
Tel: 01886 888575

E-mail: alancolburn@aol.com

Plant Sale

Martley & District Horticultural
Society will be holding its annual
plant sale on **Saturday 29 May at
2pm.** in Martley Village Hall. On sale
will be perennials, shrubs, bedding
plants, fuchsias, geraniums, herbs,
vegetable plants etc., all at bargain
prices!

There will also be a car boot sale on
the adjacent playing
field - entrance £5 per
boot (no traders).



Gina Walford

It is with sadness that we report the
death of Gina Walford on 3 April
2004. A tribute to Gina will be printed
in a future issue of The Villager.

Village Development Survey

With this issue of the Villager you will
find an important survey. Martley
Parish Council would like to hear the
views of everyone about the future of
our village.

The results will be used to shape what
happens, so it is really essential that
we hear from every household in the
Parish. Please respond as soon as
possible to the survey, using the
envelope provided. The results will be
published as soon as we have been
able to collect the data together

*David Cropp, Chair Martley Parish
Council*

Parish Link - A New Service

Hopefully everyone received their new
timetable in the last issue of The
Villager - if you have mislaid it you
will find mini-copies in Central Stores
and The Post Office. Now the service
is "Hail- and- Ride" - you can flag it
down wherever you are on the route.

We are also hoping to introduce a
Theatre-run to Malvern. An extra
service will come out to Martley
(probably on a Saturday) and take pre-
booked groups to the Malvern Theatre
complex, and take everyone back to
Martley afterwards. There will be a
fare, of course, but it will be quite
cheap, and easily offset the cost of
driving - don't forget that group
bookings will mean cheaper seats at
Malvern.

Martley & District Horticultural Society

The Society held their sixth Spring Show in the Village Hall. There were 134 entries, 45 more than last year. Results of the Show Classes were as follows:

Class 1 1st Sylvia Jeffries; 2nd Dot Roberts; 3rd John Crabbe. Class 2 1st Barbara Kirby; 2nd Audrey Trumper. Class 3 1st Rosie Pennell; 2nd Barbara Kirby; 3rd Tony Kirby. Class 4 1st Rosie Pennell; 2nd Dot Roberts; 3rd Barbara Kirby. Class 5 1st Judith O'Leary; 2nd Sylvia Jeffries; 3rd Margaret Jackson. Class 6 1st Barbara Kirby; 2nd Pam Minchin; 3rd Dot Roberts. Class 7 1st Barbra Kirby; 2nd Mary Hylan; 3rd Dorothy Fennell. Class 8 1st Margaret Rushgrove; 2nd Margaret Jackson; 3rd Dot Roberts. Class 9 1st Barbara Kirby; 2nd Judith O'Leary; 3rd Margaret Jackson. Class 10 1st Margaret Rushgrove; 2nd Margaret Jackson; 3rd Barbara Kirby. Class 11 1st Judith O'Leary; 2nd Sylvia Jeffries. Class 12 1st Mary Hylan; 2nd Judith O'Leary; 3rd Margaret Jackson. Class 13 1st Sylvia Jeffries; 2nd Patricia Turner; 3rd Barbara Kirby. Class 14 1st Margaret Jackson; 2nd Barbara Kirby; 3rd Sylvia Jeffries. Class 15 1st Pauline Ellis; 2nd Dot Roberts; 3rd Hannah Mullcary. Class 16 1st Barbara Kirby; 2nd Richard Webb; 3rd Margaret Jackson. Class 17 1st Margaret Jackson; 2nd Pam Minchin. Class 18 1st Sasha Pearce; 2nd John Crabbe; 3rd Will Pearce. The "Jack Bradley" trophy

awarded to the person gaining the highest number of points in the show was won by Barbara Kirby.

Children's Classes: Class 1 1st Edward Faulkner; 2nd Charlotte Davis; 3rd Gina Pearce. Class 5 1st Harriet Faulkner; 2nd Gina Pearce. This year, for the first time, there were 127 entries from pupils of Martley C of E Primary School, and Classes 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 were all won by pupils from the school.

Members welcomed Richard and Lesley Betts to the March meeting when they gave an audio visual presentation of "The Lost Gardens of Heligan", "The Gardens at Portmeirion" and "The Gardens and Ruins of Witley Court". Witley Court was of particular interest to some of the older members who could remember the Court before the fire and the destruction that took place after the fire, when the Court was stripped of all its valuable material and sold. The slides showing the vast cellar under the Court was most interesting with the commentary explaining the various sections of this vast department.

The Society's Annual Plant Sale and Car Boot Sale will be held in the Village Hall and on the playing field on **Saturday 29 May at 2pm** (not long now). If you have any surplus flower or vegetable plants, the Society would be pleased to have them on the morning of the sale at the Village Hall. On Saturday 12 June there will be a visit to the 'Open Gardens' at Ashton-

under-Hill. Cars will leave Martley Village Hall at 1pm. For further details please ring the Society Secretary, Judith O'Leary on 01886-888253.

Nellie Bradley

Royal British Legion

The March meeting was well-attended and the usual business discussed. We were pleased to welcome back a member who recently underwent heart surgery and also hear good news of a member who travelled to France for a hip replacement. No final details of our D-Day celebration on Saturday 5 June in the Village Hall, Broadwas, but watch this space. We are planning a trip on Wednesday 1 September to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire leaving Broadwas by coach at 9am. Non-members welcome! The cost is yet to be decided. The Arboretum is the nation's living tribute to the people of the twentieth century and a gift in their memory for present and future generations to reflect upon and enjoy. The Arboretum occupies 150 acres of land alongside the River Tame and is under the management of The Royal British Legion. There is no entrance fee but donations are appreciated. There is a licensed restaurant on site. Full details to follow. If you are interested in the work of The Royal British Legion please contact me or any member known to you.

Joyce Tyler, Hon Secretary
01886-821551

Martley Ramblers

Sunday 9 May, 2pm

In spite of being omitted from the April Villager, we are still around and carrying on with the arranged programme for 2004. Admittedly, the March walk around Mordiford Loop was cancelled due to bad weather and dangerous conditions under foot, but Ken Brookes will be leading it at a later date.

This month Reg Snow will be leading around Shrawley Woods, hopefully in time to see the bluebells and wood anemones in full bloom. A good opportunity to get some spring photographs for the family album. See you at Church car park, 2pm prompt.

Kate King



Martley WI

Wednesday 12 May

This month we will be discussing the Resolutions for the National Federation Annual meeting at Sheffield in June. We always have a lively discussion, enjoying the chance to air our views and prejudices on the various resolutions and to tell the delegate how we wish to vote. The competition is a short tale and it must be short, not more than 20 words. There will be some fun time as well to finish the evening.

Kate King

The Annual Show and Fete

The Martley Horticultural Society Annual Show and Fete will be held in its usual venue on **Saturday 21 August**. Anyone wishing to lend a helping hand would be warmly welcomed by any Committee member or by ringing Beth on 01886 888273.

Bellringing - Martley Quarter Peal

It comes closer - the first quarter peal rung in Martley St Peters by a "home" band for possibly a hundred years! Two practice attempts have taken us to halfway, soon to be successful we hope. We will let you know as soon as it happens!



A Bit of an Apology

Always optimistic, we were a little hasty in promising the Library Cyber Cafe would be open by April. Well, the books and computers have arrived; the volunteers are being trained, but the new computer line is giving us problems. Also we gather that Welland - our "partner" library - has had some problems to be ironed out. So we are sorry for the delay, most of which was outside our control.

The opening, and the times of operation will be displayed around the village and on the Martley website (www.martley.org.uk) as soon as we have the information.

Martley Spurs

As I write this, the last games of the 2003 - 2004 season are being played while the Saturday Premier side's fixture list has already been completed. March started off for the Sunday teams with a win for the Premier eleven who beat Arrow 2000 while the Reserves lost their Bernard Finnegan quarter final game against Droitwich Spa Reserves but only after extra time. The following weekend was a full blown disaster with all three sides losing their games. The Saturday eleven were knocked out of the Baylis Cup, beaten by four goals to three by Upton Town. The Sunday Premier team lost to Perrywood in the Katherine Rayer Cup semi-final game and the Reserves were beaten by Claines in an ordinary league game. The next weekend proved no better with both Sunday sides ending up on the losing side. The only feature for our boys on the final weekend of the month that brought a bit of cheer was when the Sunday Premier eleven overcame New Chequers 4 - 2 in a home game.

The Easter Bingo held in Wichenford Village Hall on 2 April brought in £500 for the much needed club funds. The "Spurs' Ladies" wish to thank all those who donated prizes, all the helpers who worked so hard to make it a success and, of course, all those who came along, played and therefore supported them.

Beth Williams

Village Development Survey

With this issue of The Villager you will find an important survey.

Martley Parish Council would like to hear the views of everyone about the future of our village.

The results will be used to shape what happens, so it is really essential that we hear from every household in the Parish.

Please respond as soon as possible to the Survey, using the enclosed envelope.

The results will be published as soon as we have been able to collect the data together

*David Cropp
Chair Martley Parish Council*

Trefoil Guild

At our April meeting, we met at the home of Jean Parks in Little Cowarne. Jean is the Girl Guide County Commissioner for Herefordshire and has spent several years in Saudi Arabia. There is no Girl Guide movement there, Guiding is permitted only for foreigners. They have the same programme as here, which then allows them to slot back into the system when they return home.

Jean gave us a very descriptive talk on their way of life, with many books, photos and souvenirs for us to look at. Our next meeting will be a talk by the Association for the Blind.

Geraldine Cooper

Allotments for Martley

So far, we have not been able to find, nor negotiate for, a suitable parcel of land for village allotments. Yet clearly from the responses we have received there is a demand.

So again, we ask whether there is land available that could be used for allotments. There would be a significant revenue stream from the holdings, so it could be quite a profitable enterprise.

Dave Cropp (01886 888398)



Caring for Wildlife

Peter Downes (see April issue of The Villager) would like to point out that he is now in a wheel chair, in ill health and over 70yrs old but he used to help down at the Millennium Field years ago when the Masons Arms had a fishing club and went fishing there.



Over the Garden Wall in Wichenford

WICHENFORD NEEDS YOUR NEWS

Ladies Fellowship

Our March meeting was held at the home of Mrs Brenda Hadfield, where we enjoyed a video on the City of Worcester and its development over the centuries. This was a fascinating history of our nearest big city, familiar to us all. We wished Mrs Lucy Jones a happy March Birthday. Mrs Pam Webb presented a statement of accounts for 2003, showing an excess of income over expenditure. Plans were made for attending the annual gathering of the Association of Churchwomen's Fellowship in May. Prayers at this meeting were led by Mrs Molly Wall.

To round off an enjoyable meeting, we tucked into a delicious tea provided by Mrs Brenda Hadfield.

Church Flowers

2 May Mrs J Root
9 May Mrs Whyatt
16 May Rogation Sunday, no flowers
23 May Mrs C Wetherall
30 May No Service
Church Brasses: Mrs M Jinks



Janet Andrews
01886 888303
Sheila Richards
01886 888378

Golden Wedding Congratulations

Bill and Jo Root celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in April. We send hearty congratulations and best wishes to them on this very special occasion.



Wichenford Village Fete

A reminder of the date – **Saturday 24 July**. Be sure to come and enjoy the fun.

Diary dates: Wichenford Ladies Fellowship meet in the village at 1.50pm, for Annual Churchwomen's Fellowship's Gathering at Bayton Church to be held at 2.30pm

Little Witley Flower Festival

This Flower Festival will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday, May 29, 30 and 31. The theme will be 'Village Life' and it will be open daily

from 11am to 5pm, with crafts, produce and plants for sale. Also refreshments will be served throughout the day. On the Sunday and Monday afternoons there will be special attractions. A Songs of Praise Service will be held in the Church on the Sunday evening at 6.30pm. All welcome to come and enjoy a truly village occasion.



Violet Wilby Memorial Music Award

Applications are invited for the Violet Wilby Memorial Music Award. Applicants must be at school or college, reside in the Parish of Wichenford and be studying music in one form or another.

Letters of application should be sent to Mrs C Wetherall, Abingdon Cottage, Wichenford WR6 6XY before the closing date of 20 June 2004.

Wichenford 100 Club

169 was winning number. Keith Bedworth won £112.

Millennium Green Tidying & Inspection Rota

May: Ray Panton.

Kenswick and Wichenford Parish Council

An Ordinary Meeting of the parish council held on Monday 29 March 2004 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Matters Arising

Refuse Lorries. The parish clerk wrote to Mr Pumfrey on 17 February and has not even had an acknowledgement of her letter. The district councillor was not at the meeting and had not spoken to Mr Pumfrey. It was proposed that we write to the chief executive of the district council and ask what their procedure is. They do not answer letters or acknowledge receipt of letters.

Lengthman The clerk and Councillor Wells attended a meeting at County Hall. Specific approval will be needed for the Lengthsman to work on A and B roads with speeds limits of 40mph and above. The County Council will provide training and personal protective equipment, temporary traffic signs and hand tools. The position has been advertised in the April edition of the Villager magazine.

Planning

Decisions made by Malvern Hills: Change of use of existing attached garage to home office at Orchard Cottage, Wichenford - granted. Relocation of Farm Buildings at Rimmers Farm - granted. Conversion of garage to granny flat and shower room at Poplar Cottage - passed. Single Storey extension to the Tallett at Cockshoot Farm - passed. Applications Received for comment: Amendments to garage design and provisions of new link to each barn for unit 4 Rimmers Farm. This is the third set of amendments received for this application. The parish council felt that the same rules should apply to unit 4 as unit 2, considering the close proximity of these barns.

Finance

Payment of 12 cheques totalling £1600.00 was authorised.

Highways

The clerk was asked to report the broken signposts at the Masons Arms and the top of Horne Lane. It may be necessary to move this sign post as it is right on the edge of the road and keeps getting knocked. The clerk was also asked to remind the county council that the SLOW sign painted on the road at Poplar Road is still waiting to be removed and repainted at Venn Lane. Large cracks in the road at Kings Green, Barbers Lane and Highfields need reporting.

Councillors reports

Councillor Rendall agreed to make some name badges for councillors for

when they are out in the village or repairing the footpaths. Footpath 20 is closed because the bridge at Fitcher Brook is broken. If anyone is walking the footpaths and comes across any broken stiles, please report them to Councillor Wells and he will repair them.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

26 April 2004. Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45/8pm.

10 May 2004. Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

All in the Memorial Hall Wichenford.

Shirley Sanders Clerk to the Council
(01886 888302)

Broadband update

Those with Internet access, using the Martley, Wichenford or Knightwick telephone exchanges, are encouraged to register for BT broadband. Please use the form on www.martley.org.uk/broadband/onlineform.htm.

Even if you propose to subscribe to Airband (when it eventually arrives) it will help all those unable to make use of this facility. Many people in the area will definitely not be able to use a wireless broadband connection as the coverage will be limited to properties that are virtually 'line of sight' to the transmitter. Signing up would help to reach the magic 200 upgrade mark much earlier.

More information about broadband can be found on www.martley.org.uk/broadband.

From our Foreign Correspondent

Part 2

March 2004 Kitgum, Northern Uganda. It is very hot, in the low 90's all day and not much cooler at night, and I consider myself privileged as I turn the tap in the small bathroom, and water fed from a storage tank at the back, trickles out. Looking through the broken panes of glass in my hotel bedroom I can see a queue of women, children and a few men, drawing water from the only communal well in the village. Some of them wait patiently many hours for their turn at the hand pump.

Its 6.30am and I am off to the ICRC compound to do some work before it gets too hot. Whenever I arrive in a place, word soon gets round that a radio technician has arrived, and I become a Wanted Man - there are not many of us radio technicians about in this part of the world, I'm afraid, though in town everyone enjoys the latest technology, with mobiles phones and international satellite communications. It is still not a really secure means of communication and once out in the surrounding areas, only

old-fashioned steam radio is a viable and secure alternative.

I am enjoying the experience once again, if



not the heat and facilities. It's on the cards that I will be asked to return to do some more work as quite a few problems remain which compromise security measures. They need urgent attention before the rainy season begins, when literally everything starts to fall apart and becomes really, really, difficult!

John Layton

Is it You?

Oh isn't it a pity

When you're driving from the city,

That you behave like a lout

And throw your rubbish out

Of the window of your car,

So it spreads wide and far.

This message should sink in

Which is "take it to the bin"

Where it will be collected

So our environment's protected.



Anon



Experiences in Senegal

I leave a grey English morning. The bleak February landscape rushes past me as I begin the first leg of my journey to Senegal. It is the realisation of a long-held dream. Gaunt trees devoid of leaves stand silhouetted against the steel grey of an early morning sky, punctuated by joyous concurrences of crows windsurfing the fierce easterly. They wheel and dive: pure expressions of the uttermost exhilaration. They merge with their element. The passengers, seeing only gloom and depressing greyness, sit shivering and hunched, safely sealed behind the tinted glass. Unspeaking, joyless faces in travelling anonymity. There is no laughter, a blank stare repaying a friendly gesture, a smile rebuffed. I long to escape, and exchange this stressful existence for one of simplicity, friendship and warmth. Like the swallows of autumn, I feel an urge to go south and forsake this infinite greyness that permeates my very soul. Waiting for my flight to Dakar, I pass long hours watching humanity pace, stressed by this alien environment. They seem hostile and suspicious in their attitude to fellow travellers. I see hardened faces, unsmiling lest their guard is let down. There is an atmosphere of fear. Our culture focuses upon disaster with the virus of negativity everywhere. Affluence removes the need for the friendly support of others, leaving people isolated in their transient wealth. I shiver with a pervasive sadness that increases my longing for Africa. I shall be there soon. Insh'allah⁽¹⁾.

Arriving in the early hours of a cool Senegalese morning, I flop onto the bed, casually draping the Elastoplast-patched mosquito net about myself. The room smells faintly of cheap disinfectant and drains. The rhythm of the pounding Atlantic surf lulls me into a trance, but the adrenalin still pumping through my veins denies me true sleep. Just before dawn the thick, indigo air is pierced by the resonating tones of a Muezzin⁽²⁾ calling the faithful to prayer. The hypnotic sound of his curiously split voice reminds me of Tibetan monks' overtone chanting. I hear another, higher in pitch and more distant, echoing the first but subtly different. Gaining passion and spiritual fervour, their song travels the light breeze of dawn, ebbing and flowing in the gently moving silver air. I think I hear a bell somewhere as I drift off into half sleep. Too soon, I awake to an uneasy choir of numerous vehicle horns. They discordantly seep into my awareness and I am roughly wrenched from my dreaming. The spell is broken. The day has begun.

Angie Hill

⁽¹⁾ Arabic words meaning 'Allah or God willing'

⁽²⁾ A Moslem crier who calls the people to daily prayers.

Make an Appointment with yourself

What jobs have you got at the back of your mind that your keep putting off? How would you feel if they were done? What is actually stopping you from doing that job?

There are two items which are always on my to-do list 1) Filing and 2) Cleaning the oven. One a business chore, the other a household chore. When these jobs have been done I feel I have achieved something and I feel liberated because they are not lurking at the back of my mind.

What have your got lurking at the back of your mind and would you like to get out of the way? Do you keep some sort of appointments diary? Where do you write down a meeting or a lunch date? What about keeping an appointment with yourself? Find your diary and book an appointment with yourself to do the jobs you are procrastinating on. If you can keep an appointment with your boss, friend or customer you can also keep an appointment with yourself. Think of the job as an important meeting – how much time should you allocate to it, when would it be the most convenient. Book out the time in your diary NOW. Don't be tempted to commit yourself to anything else at this time. This is firm appointment with yourself. Set yourself rules regarding when you will have a tea or coffee break and remind yourself that you are going to focus entirely on the task in hand. Wearing

appropriate clothing can also help to set the scene for efficiency.

My filing is now done and my cooker is sparkling clean. Let me know if I have motivated you to do a 'lurking job'!

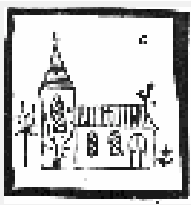
*Jennie Barnes, Life Coach,
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The Berrow Hill

"The ancient name of this noble elevation, which lies in the parish of Martley, no doubt was either Burrow, which in the Saxon signifies a place fenced or fortified, or Barrow meaning an ancient place of sepulture, but most probably the former. It is of a fine oval form, and although a natural hill, its sides have evidently been artificially rounded into their present shape.

There are two lines of entrenchment round the brow of the hill, which show it to be an ancient camp. These trenches I first noticed in the year 1835, and they are still perfect in some parts, particularly at the north and south ends of the oval. In length the camp is about four hundred yards, and one hundred and ninety yards wide.

Jabez Allies, 1840, from "The British, Roman, and Saxon Antiquities and Folk-Lore of Worcestershire"



Church Words

The Rectory 01886 888664

Services for May

The article below was recently brought to my attention which I thought merited sharing with the community, it gives a glimpse into the past and what church was like in 1848.

The villagers were hastening churchward in obedience to the summons then issuing from the tower, and the school children in their neat Sunday attire were pouring down from their new school house winding down the parsonage garden, and the foremost of them reaching the old wooden porch of their old parish church.

The Choir consisting of rustic voices and instruments, did their part pretty smoothly in a variety of tunes which I cannot but fancy are indigenous to and have never escaped beyond this parish. The custom prevails here, as in some other primitive places, to chalk on a slate the Psalms to be sung, and hang it over the gallery for the information of the flock below. This is a very convenient custom at Martley, where no one can hear the clerk. (John Noake 1848)

As I read this I couldn't help but make present day comparison, Martley Primary School are always welcome, Easter they shared timeless truths of our faith. The Ferndale Singers assist

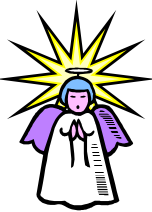
2 May	
Wichenford	9.30am Holy Communion
Martley	11am Family Service
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Knightwick	8am Holy Communion
Cotheridge	6.30pm Evensong
9 May	
Wichenford	10am Family Worship
Martley	11am Holy Communion
Broadwas	11am Morning Worship
Cotheridge	8am Holy Communion
16 May	
Church Farm Cotheridge	11am Benefice Rogation Service—all welcome!
20 May Ascension Day	
St Johns, Worcester	10am Holy Communion
Martley	7.30pm Holy Communion
23 May	
Wichenford	11am Holy Communion
Martley	9.30am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evening Worship
Broadwas	11am Family Worship
30 May No services	

us in our worship too, but 'rustic voices' - is that a compliment? I feel it should be. Instruments abound at our services, which is a delight to hear and I know whatever we sing, old or new tunes, they are sung enthusiastically and from the heart. Finally the slate - our OHP screen and the Vicar. I hope you can hear me!

*God Bless
Revd. David Sherwin*



On 4 July our Curate, Jennifer Whittaker will be ordained priest at Worcester Cathedral followed by Lunch together. At 4.00pm she will celebrate her first service of Holy Communion at St. Peter's Martley. All Welcome.



Chantry news

Specialist School Bid

A big thank you to all the parents and business that have sponsored us over recent weeks in our attempt to raise £50,000. However we were just short of our target, so we were unable to submit our bid this month.

We aim to submit the bid at the next round, which will in October.

*Caroline Browne,
Headteacher*

Social Events News

Quiz Evening Held on 19 March: We are pleased to announce that the Quiz Evening made £247.00 for the school funds. It was a real fund evening, won by the Teachers team, but only by a narrow margin. We'll be ready for you next time! A big Thank You to everyone who supported the event and an invitation to those who didn't to support the next event - The Barn Dance.

Forthcoming Events: Summer Barn Dance - 19 June. The Friends of Chantry High School will be holding a barn dance on the 19 June. It starts at 7.30pm and finishes at 11pm. There will be an outside bar and a barbeque selling hot dogs and burgers - **FIRST BURGER FREE** then £2 after.

Tickets are available from the school - we need to know the numbers for catering purposes. Adult Ticket £ 6.00 Ea, Child Ticket £ 4.00 Ea, Family Ticket £16.00 ea (2 adults & 2 children)

Where these funds will be going?

The fundraising events this year are to raise money to provide the pupils with better break-time facilities outside the front of the school. Hard-surfaced undercover seating areas will be provided for the pupils to socialise in, with benches and various planted areas. The pupils themselves will be encouraged to put forward their design ideas to enhance what is a very basic facility at the moment. We hope all of the parents will put their support behind this project.

In the Kitchen



Greek-Style Fish

4 fillets of hake, sea-bream or similar fish

Plain white flour + salt & pepper

2 onions, sliced

4 tomatoes, sliced

Large bunch parsley, chopped

Olive oil for frying

Lemon slices

Method:

1. Mix salt and pepper with the flour and dust the fish with the flour.
2. Fry the fish in the olive oil for a few minutes until golden.
3. Remove the fish from the pan and put it in an oven-proof dish.
4. Fry the onions until translucent.
5. Cover the fish with onions, tomatoes and parsley and bake in a moderate oven 140° C or Gas 3 for 30 minutes.

Eat hot or cold, decorated with lemon slices.



In the Garden



Garden tips for May

The cuckoo comes in April and sings his song in May. Normally May is one of the best growing months of the year, but the night temperature can still drop very low after warm days.

Vegetables will need particular attention if you are to avoid damage from birds, slugs and other pest such as green fly, black fly and white fly.

The eggs of these pests over-winter, particularly after a mild winter, and their offspring multiply very rapidly as the days grow warmer.

Lettuce - sow a few seeds on a regular basis if you are looking for a continuous supply during the Summer. Kidney beans will be growing well and ready to plant out from containers. Plant out Summer cabbage, Autumn cauliflower, calabrese, sprouts and purple sprouting. Sow carrot seed; the later it is sown in the month the better chance the carrots will have of avoiding the damage of the carrot fly maggot, as the main crop of eggs are laid by the fly in the early part of this month. The dressing of seed with an appropriate pesticide is to be recommended.

Take the growing tips out of broad beans. This will help to control black

fly, as the eggs are laid in the top tender growth. Sow seed of wallflowers, Canterbury bells, calendula, candy tuft, lavatera and cornflower.

Jack Bradley

Barn Dance

***A fund-raising event for
St Richard's Hospice***

***with Wuster Waites and The
Eve Evans Experience***

at

Hallow Village Hall

on

Saturday 8 May 2004

7.30-12pm

Licensed bar until 11.30pm

Raffle

***Tickets £6 each
(includes supper)
from Dot Fletcher
01886 821884***



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